

### FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office

Steven C. Horn, Division Director Kimberly Golden Brandt, Director

## FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

September 1, 2021

Address:

9010 Liberty Road, Frederick

Meeting Date: September 1, 2021

Applicant:

Joe Lubozynski/Frederick Co.

Report Date: August 16, 2021

COA 21-06

Staff: Amanda Whitmore

Proposal:

Case No.:

Repairs to north wall

Landmarks Foundation

### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Beatty Cramer House is listed on the County Register of Historic Properties (CR # 21-02). The property includes the entire parcel which includes the historic house, a spring house, and a smokehouse. The house was built in two sections, a 1748 timber frame section and a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century log section. The property is accessed from Liberty Road.



Fig. 1: Subject property.

### **PROPOSAL**

The applicant proposes to repair and stabilize the balloon frame on the north wall of the house which will involve installing a preservative treated sill, sistering bottom studs, straightening and raising a wall, installing plywood sheathing, and salvaging wood siding. Additionally, the applicant proposes to the replace the 5" half-round galvanized gutters with 5" half-round aluminum gutters and install downspouts at the ends of the gutters.



Fig. 2: North wall of house

### **APPLICABLE GUIDELINES**

When reviewing alterations to a designated County Register property several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include the *Frederick County Historic Preservation Code: Chapter 1-23*, the *Frederick County Register of Historic Places Design Guidelines (Guidelines)*, and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards)*. The pertinent information in these documents is outlined below.

### Frederick County Code: Chapter 1-23-7B

(1) In reviewing applications, the Commission shall give consideration to the historic, archeological, or architectural significance of the landmark, site, or structure and

its relationship to the historic, archeological, or architectural significance of the surrounding area; the relationship of the exterior architectural features of a landmark or structure to the remainder of the landmark or structure and to the surrounding area; the general compatibility of proposed exterior design, scale, proportion, arrangement, texture, and materials to the landmark, site, or structure and to the surrounding area; and any other factors including aesthetic factors which the Commission deems to be pertinent.

- (2) The Commission shall consider only exterior features of a landmark or structure and shall not consider any interior arrangements.
- (3) The Commission shall not disapprove an application except with respect to the several factors specified in paragraph (1) above.
- (4) The Commission shall be strict in its judgment of plans for sites or structures determined by research to be of historic, archeological, or architectural significance. The Commission shall be lenient in its judgment of plans for sites or structures of little historic, archeological, or architectural significance, or of plans involving new construction, unless in the Commission's judgment such plans would seriously impair the historic, archeological, or architectural significance of surrounding sites or structures. The Commission is not required to limit construction, reconstruction, or alteration to the architectural style of any one (1) period.

### Frederick County Register of Historic Places Design Guidelines

The *Guidelines* contain a Roofs section (Chapter 4-B) and an Exterior Walls section (Chapter 4-E) that should be referred to when reviewing this COA application. This section of the guidelines provides the following guidance:

Gutters and Downspouts (Ch. 4-B.2): When edge-mounted gutters are beyond repair and must be replaced, care should be taken to select a shape that is historically appropriate to the building. Half-round gutters in galvanized steel or copper are typically more stylistically appropriate on historic buildings. Smooth round or rectangular downspouts are preferred for historic buildings over the ribbed type.

Wall and Foundation System Overview (Ch. 4-E.1): Exterior walls are both aesthetically and structurally important to a building. The walls carry the weight of the roof and floors down to the building foundation. Wood walls have a wood structural frame and are finished with an exterior cladding material, most typically wood boards.

Wood Siding (Ch. 4-E.2): Wood siding is a character-defining feature of a building and should not be removed or replaced with a different style.

### Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

The *Standards* define rehabilitation as "the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions

or features, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values." The *Standards* that are most applicable to the application before the Commission are as follows:

- 2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
- 5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- 6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
- 9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

### STAFF DISCUSSION

The applicant proposes to make repairs to the balloon frame on the north by installing a preservative treated sill, sistering bottom studs, straightening and raising a wall, installing plywood sheathing, and salvaging wood siding. Additionally, 5" half-round aluminum gutters and downspouts will be installed on the north wall.

The Beatty Cramer House was built in two sections. The timber frame section was built in 1748 and a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century log section was added to the west. Asbestos shingle siding covers the building with wooden clapboards underneath. The applicant states that the balloon frame was most likely added in the first half of the twentieth century. Deterioration at the bottom of the wall resulted in a repair about the mid-twentieth century. Since then, the sill and bottom end of the studs have continued to deteriorate. Additionally, the applicant states in the application that the settlement of the wall has changed the pitch of the roof at the eaves. Finally, the galvanized gutters are rusted and need replaced.

The applicant proposes to install 2x6 preservative treated yellow pine for the double sill and the sister studs. The sill will be fastened to the concrete foundation with stainless steel concrete screws and will be compatible with preservative treated wood. Prior to the wall repair, the lower four feet of the east two-thirds of the clapboards will be removed and salvaged. Once the wall has been repaired and straightened, the salvaged clapboards will be rehung and the existing plywood will be replaced with smooth exterior grade plywood. All new exposed wood will be painted with linseed oil paint.



Fig. 3: North wall showing settlement at the eaves

Due to the degradation of the sill and studs to the north wall, and that it is causing the wall to settle, Staff finds that replacing the deteriorated and missing sill, sistering of the studs, straightening the wall, and re-hanging the salvaged wood cladding will not adversely impact the historic character of the structure and recommends approval under 1-23-7. Additionally, Staff finds that this project will retain and preserve the historic character of the property and its distinctive features and that the exterior alterations will not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. Staff further finds that the project is appropriate under the Guidelines and Standards #2, #5, and #9.

The in-kind replacement of the existing downspouts and half-round gutters with new downspouts and half-round gutters is considered a maintenance activity per the Commission's Rules of Procedure Section 14. However, the applicant proposes to change the material from galvanized steel to aluminum but keep the existing shape and profile. Aluminum gutters have the advantage of lower maintenance and do not rust. However, they are more susceptible to dents and bending. While the Guidelines indicate galvanized steel or copper are typically more stylistically appropriate, Staff finds that aluminum half-round gutters and downspouts may be acceptable in this case since they will be located on the rear of the property. The aluminum gutters and downspouts must be finished with a color that matches the material to which they are attached and must not be a light-weight aluminum. With these conditions, Staff finds the replacement of the galvanized downspouts and half-round gutters with aluminum on the north elevation to not adversely impact the historic character of the structure and that the project is appropriate under the Guidelines and Standards #2, #6, and #9. Staff recommends approval under 1-23-7.

Finally, it should be noted that the property has a Maryland Historical Trust preservation easement and this work was approved by their easement committee per a letter dated August 9, 2021.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Commission **approve** COA #21-06 under the criteria for Application Review in Chapter 1-23-7 having found that the proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of the historic resource and is compatible in character to the landmark and the surrounding area and with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* #2, #5, #6, and #9. Included with the approval is the general condition that the applicant will notify the Historic Preservation Planner if they propose to make any alterations to the approved plans.

### Certificate of Appropriateness Application Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission

Building Permit # (	(if annlies):	For Office Use C	Only on #: COA 21-06 c	R# 21-02
HPC Hearing Date	0 . 0.01		d as Complete: 8 /	
HPC Decision:				
	Rejected:			
	Deferred for Info	rmation/Consultation:		
Please prin	t or type. Applications mus	t be received 4 weeks	prior to the scheduled H	IPC meeting.
1. APPLICANT				
Name: Joe Lubo	zynski	1.01704		
Address: 634 Tra	il Avenue, Frederick, Mo	21/01		
Home/Cell Phone:	240-357-4005	Work/Other Daytir	ne Phone:	
Email: jlubozyns				
Dwner Name and A	Address (if other than applica	nt). Frederick Cou	unty Landmarks Fou	ndation, Inc.
1110 Ro	semont Avenue, Freder	ick. MD 21701		
2. HISTORIC PR	OPERTY	D 11 6		D.// 0.0
Name (as listed in F	rederick Co. Register of Historic	Places): Beatty-C	ramer House Ci	R#21-U2
Street Address: 90	010 Liberty Road, Freder	TICK, IVID 21701		
Γax Map & Parcel	Number:			
3. TYPE OF CHA	ANGE (check all that apply	)		
☐ Alteration	☐ Excavation	☑ Repair	$\Box$ Grading	$\Box$ Addition
☐ Moving	☐ New Construction	☐ Demolition	□ Sign	□ Other
. WORK BEING	G PERFORMED BY:			
ALCHHECE.				
Ingineer				
Engineer:	cr/Other: Contract to be d	etermined, bids a	re due August 20, 2	021
Engineer: Building Contracto	r/Other: Contract to be o	etermined, bids a	re due August 20, 2	021
Engineer:	r/Other: Contract to be o	etermined, bids a	re due August 20, 2	021
Engineer:	r/Other: Contract to be d	letermined, bids a	re due August 20, 2 Detail Drawing	
Engineer:  Building Contracto  S. REQUIRED A	TTACHMENTS TO THIS	letermined, bids a  APPLICATION:	re due August 20, 2	

	Please provide written approval of requested change from easement holder.
7.	A. I plan to apply for a Federal tax credit for this project:
	□ Yes □ No
	B. I plan to apply for a State tax credit for this project:
	□ Yes □ No
	C. I plan to apply for a Frederick County Property tax credit for this project:
	□ Yes □ No
	D. I have been awarded a Frederick County Rural Historic Preservation Grant for this project:
	□ Yes □ No
8.	I have applied for another Frederick County permit, approval, or license regarding this property:
	□ Yes □ No
9.	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: (attach extra sheets as needed) Repair and stabilize balloon frame north wall. Install preservative treated sill, sister studs, install plywood sheathing, repair wood siding. Attachments: Beatty-Cramer Scope of Work 080321, Beatty-Cramer House photos 2019, Beatty-Cramer House Drawings Phase I 060721 FCLF Beatty-Cramer Plat 0058-0167.
10.	POSTING OF PROPERTY:
pri His are	cards will be provided by the Planning & Permitting Department and must be placed in full view near the ncipal public road(s) bordering the property for 14 days prior to the scheduled date of the public hearing before the storic Preservation Commission. Placards should be reasonably weatherproofed and on a stiff backing. Applicants responsible for the installation and maintenance of the placards unless other accommodations have been made th HPC Staff.
	PLEASE READ AND INITIAL THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:
nc —	i am the owner of this property, or
ye	I am acting on behalf of the owner(s) of this property and have attached a letter from the owner(s) indicating their knowledge of this application.
ye	The information on this application represents an accurate description of the proposed work. I have omitted nothing that might affect the decision of the Historic Preservation Commission.
ye	

6. FOR PROPERTIES UNDER EASEMENT FROM A HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION:

yes	
yes	_I agree to supply two additional photographs of appropriate representative views of the proposed work when the job is completed.
yes	I will attend (or send a representative to attend) the public meeting for this application before the Historic Preservation Commission.
	_I understand that issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness is not an authorization to begin work.
yes	_I agree or am authorized by the property owner to grant County officials the right to enter onto the property for the purpose of inspecting the work permitted.

Joe Lubozynski August 3, 2021

Signature of Owner/Applicant Date

## Frederick County Landmarks, Foundation, Inc. Beatty-Cramer House Scope of Work 080321

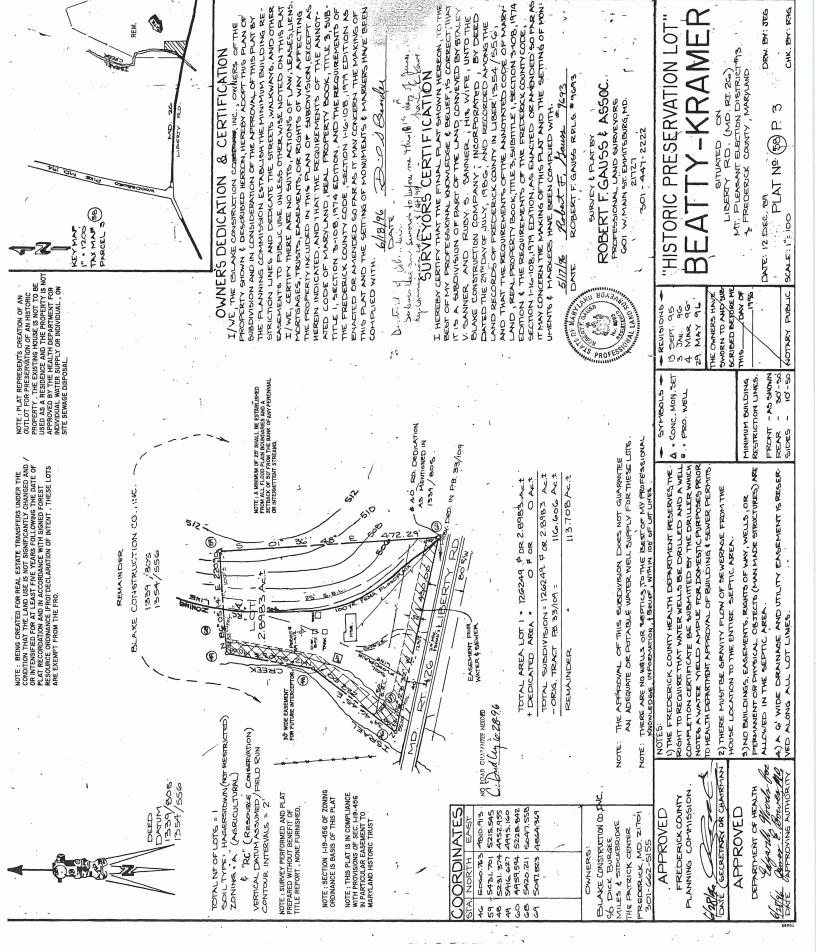
### **SCOPE OF WORK**

#### **Balloon Frame Wall**

- Remove and salvage clapboards at lower four feet of the east two thirds of the wall
- Remove and discard plywood.
- Replace deteriorated and missing sill, sister bottom of studs, straighten and raise wall, re-hang salvaged wood cladding, sheath the remainder of the wall with exterior grade smooth plywood. Install two 4'x4' hinged panels, locations to be determined by Landmarks and MHT. Each panel to have three 6" Thinges.
- Use 2x6 preservative treated yellow pine for double sill and for sister studs.
- Sister studs should be a minimum of 8 feet long. Fasten the sister studs with framing screws.
- Fasten the new sill to the concrete foundation with stainless steel concrete screws.
- Fasteners shall be compatible with preservative treated wood.
- Paint all new wood exposed to the weather, with Viking linseed oil paint, or equal
- Apply one coat of linseed oil primer with 10% zinc white and two coats of paint.

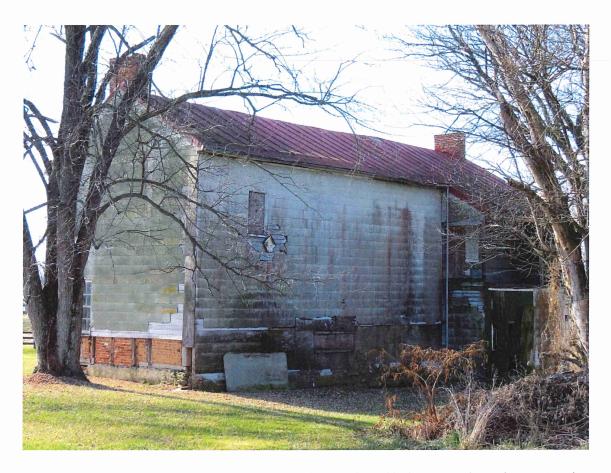
### **Gutters**

• Replace the 5" half round galvanized gutters on the back of the house with factory painted white, 5" half round aluminum gutters. Provide one downspout at each end of the long gutter and one downspout at the west end of the short gutter.





Beatty-Cramer House northwest view, 2019.



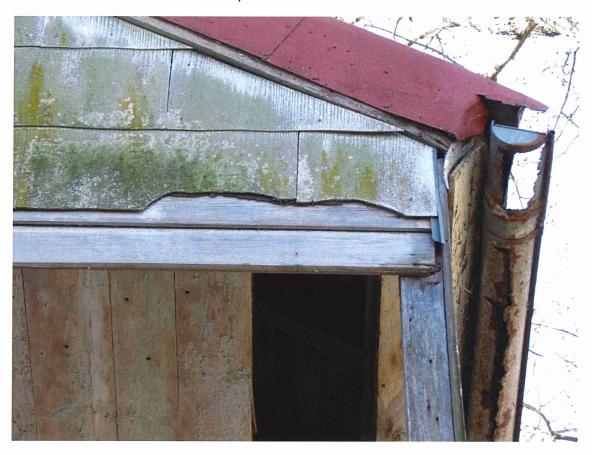
Beatty-Cramer House southwest view, 2019. The porch and balcony on the right previously extended along the entire length of the house. Where the porch and balcony were removed the balloon frame wall covers the north wall of the original timber frame house. The balloon frame wall was constructed, most likely, in the first half of the twentieth century, after the standing seam roofing was installed. Later, deterioration at the bottom of the wall resulted in a repair about the mid-twentieth century. Since then, the sill and bottom end of the studs have continued to deteriorate. Settlement of the wall has noticeably changed the pitch of the roof at the eaves.



Beatty-Cramer House south view of north wall, 2019. The standing seam roofing extends to the drip edge above the balcony. Where the balcony is missing the standing seam roofing stops about 18 inches above the drip edge. There is a strip of flat seam metal roofing along the eaves that was installed when the balloon frame wall was built. Settlement of the balloon frame wall has strained the join between the flat seam roofing and the standing seam roofing, causing the roof to leak.



Beatty-Cramer House north wall, detail showing bottom of gutter rusted through.



Beatty-Cramer House gutter on north porch.



Beatty-Cramer House north wall, showing settlement at the eaves.